

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 3, 1998

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 59**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Baca**

March 26, 1998

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 59—Relative to Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 59, as amended, Baca. Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to qualify automatically persons with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome (RSDS) for Social Security disability benefits *upon proper diagnosis*.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome  
2 (RSDS) is a heinous autonomic neurological disease that  
3 causes severe burning pain, extreme sensitivity to touch,  
4 swelling, excessive sweating, and deterioration of the  
5 skin, tissue, muscles, and bones; and  
6 WHEREAS, RSDS usually affects the arms and legs, but  
7 can affect any part of the body; and  
8 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 6,000,000 people in  
9 the United States with this disease and, thus, it is not a rare  
10 disease; and

1 WHEREAS, The unremitting pain of RSDS has caused  
 2 many people much physical and emotional misery; and  
 3 WHEREAS, There is no reason for these people to also  
 4 suffer financial devastation and additional misery; and  
 5 WHEREAS, Under federal law, each person with RSDS  
 6 who applies for Social Security disability insurance is  
 7 considered on an individual basis and by the time benefits  
 8 are awarded, it may take as long as three years; and  
 9 WHEREAS, In the interim, savings, belongings, and  
 10 homes are lost and the stress from this financial  
 11 devastation, along with the terrible pain, often results in  
 12 the individual becoming severely depressed; and  
 13 WHEREAS, This financial misery could be lessened or  
 14 averted if victims of RSDS qualified immediately for  
 15 Social Security disability insurance benefits *upon proper*  
 16 *diagnosis*; now, therefore, be it  
 17 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*  
 18 *California, jointly*, That the California Legislature urges  
 19 the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to  
 20 qualify automatically persons with Reflex Sympathetic  
 21 Dystrophy Syndrome (RSDS) for Social Security  
 22 disability insurance benefits *upon proper diagnosis*; and  
 23 be it further  
 24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
 25 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and  
 26 Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the  
 27 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and  
 28 representative from California in the Congress of the  
 29 United States.

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